

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)322

(Question Serial No. 3923)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Please provide details of the work of “conducting risk assessment on pests affecting public health” in the 18 districts. Please also set out in tabular form the pest blackspots and the estimated figures in respect of pests affecting public health in the 18 districts.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 2068)

Reply:

Since 2003, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has put in place an enhanced dengue vector surveillance programme for monitoring the distribution of *Aedes albopictus* at selected areas, and for evaluating the effectiveness of mosquito prevention and control work carried out by various parties. The surveillance data collected also provide an informed basis for timely adjustment to our mosquito prevention and control strategies and measures. Under the dengue vector surveillance programme, small plastic containers, known as ovitraps, are placed at selected locations for detecting the larval breeding rate of Aedine mosquitoes. The ovitrap index is the percentage of ovitraps that are found to have positive larval breeding result. 2 different indices, namely the Area Ovitrap Index for *Aedes albopictus* (“AOI”) and the Monthly Ovitrap Index for *Aedes albopictus* (“MOI”), are recorded. AOI indicates the extensiveness of the distribution of Aedine mosquitoes in the surveyed area while MOI reflects the extensiveness of *Aedes albopictus* throughout the territory.

Since 2000, the Department has been making use of the rodent infestation rate (“RIR”) and its trend to gauge the general situation of rodent infestation in individual districts and as the basis for devising rodent prevention and control measures and assessing the overall efficacy of rodent prevention and disinfestation work. The Department conducts RIR surveys in rodent-infested areas or places likely to have rodent problems, in particular areas bustling with human activities. The survey is conducted every 6 months. Changes to the RIR readings in individual districts over time facilitate the assessment of progress made in containing rodent infestation and the overall efficacy of the work. The Department also

takes into account the number of complaints received and reports by frontline staff to provide an informed basis for allocation of resources.

The Department does not compile a list of pest blackspots. The Department receives pest-related complaints from members of the public through multiple channels, including reports pinpointing locations with pest infestation. The Department will conduct investigation and take measures including providing disinfestation services in public places or requesting the occupiers/owners of private premises to perform disinfestation. Depending on the circumstances prevailing at individual locations, the Department will adjust the frequency of pest control operations and step up enforcement action as appropriate.

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